

First 5 Commission of San Diego

Item 5

State/Staff Report

Response to Center for Child Health Outcomes

At the Commission meeting held on July 7, 2003, Susan Hedges, from the Center for Child Health Outcomes (CCHO), presented public testimony regarding CCHO's ineligibility to respond to the forthcoming RFP for a *Child Health Needs and Assets Assessment (Assessment)*. The Commission Executive Director stated that the issue was currently being reviewed by County Counsel and the Department of Purchasing and Contracting (Purchasing). Chairman Cox requested that the Executive Director report back on the concern at the August meeting.

County Counsel and Purchasing have determined that CCHO and Children's Hospital cannot be considered separate entities, since they share the same tax identification number. Staff, though, reexamined the RFP process and has made a new determination where and when the conflict of interest occurs.

The staff re-review made it clear that the potential for conflict of interest occurs after the *Assessment* activity is completed, should the same contractor performing the *Assessment* want to submit a grant in response to an RFP that is based on the findings and results of the *Assessment*. It's at that point that the *Assessment* contractor would be in conflict and have an unfair advantage.

In order to keep the RFP process on schedule, the policy regarding the Eligibility Criteria was revised and communicated to CCHO. While the new policy makes CCHO eligible to apply for the *Assessment* contract, it makes Children's Hospital ineligible to apply for grants based on the results of the *Assessment* if CCHO is the contractor that conducts the *Assessment*.

First 5 Commission of California (FFCC)

At the June 22, 2003 FFCC meeting, the Commission approved an investment of \$100 million to implement voluntary Preschool for All. This is one of the first steps by the State Commission to ensure that all 3- and 4-year-olds have access to the early learning experiences they need to grow, develop and reach their greatest potential in school and in life. Studies show that for every dollar invested in early learning programs, quality child care and preschool, the public saves \$7.14 in crime, welfare dependency and other costs. Additionally, children in high-quality preschool programs are also projected to make roughly \$143,000 more over their lifetimes than those who didn't take part in the programs. A copy of the press released by the FFCC is attached for Commission information.

The California Children and Families Association (CCAFA) publishes "**Prop 10 Briefings.**" The attached July 2003 edition provides a summary of the highlights from the July 16, 2003 CCAFA meeting, and the July 22, 2003, First 5 Commission of San Diego meeting (starts on page 4).

County Children's Health Initiatives Working Meeting– Sacramento

On July 15, 2003, First 5 San Diego staff members Laura Spiegel, Executive Director, and Kim Frink, Community Outreach and Planning Manager, attended a working meeting in Sacramento co-sponsored by the California Children and Families Association and the Institute for Health Policy Solutions. The purpose of the meeting was to 1) provide an overview of county children's health initiatives and assess options for multi-county collaboration, 2) provide insights and technical assistance to counties interested in pursuing children's health initiatives, and 3) identify key resources for counties to access in going forward with their initiatives. Some key learnings from the meeting included 1) more families will enroll in health insurance if they receive a "universal message" that coverage is available for all of their children, 2) more families will retain their insurance coverage if they are linked with and use their healthcare resources, 3) a challenge for Prop 10-funded programs is how to leverage additional resources to serve children 6 years and older, 4) participation in healthcare increases if all children are enrolled at the same time (even if enrolled in different plans), and 5) outreach and family support services help families to enroll and stay enrolled, and to navigate the healthcare system (which increase retention and participation). The content of the meeting was very timely and helpful in developing the recommendations for a San Diego healthcare access funding priority.

Health Care Access Stakeholder Meeting

On July 17, 2003 a meeting was held to obtain information from community experts and advocates about how the Commission can best address healthcare access for uninsured children from prenatal to age 5. Approximately 30 people attended including Commissioners Bowen and Faine, and representatives from health plans, health advocacy organizations, foundations, public health, school health, WIC and community clinics. Valuable input was obtained from participants and used in the development of the proposed First 5 Healthcare Access Initiative (see meeting notes in Item 7).

State Staff Development Summit

On August 20-22, Laura Spiegel, Executive Director, and Denis McGee, Operations Manager, will attend the annual commission staff development summit in Monterey, California. Breakout and general session topics include media and public relations, evaluation, financial planning, strategic planning, policy development, fiscal leveraging and sustainability, launching a new initiative, advocacy, managing contractors, and civic engagement benefits and strategies.

Grants & Contracts Status

On July 7, 2003, Item 7, the Commission approved capacity building through intergenerational programs. Commission staff is developing the Statement of Work and on July 30th released the Notice of Intent to award a contract opportunity for ***Building the Capacity of Programs for Children 0-5 Using Intergenerational Approaches***. This is a three-year, \$3 million project. It will be a two-step application process, and staff intends to return to the Commission November 3, 2003 with recommendations for award approvals (see attached Notice of Intent).

During the week of July 21, 2003, Commission staff conducted contract negotiations with Community Health Improvement Partners and InfoLine for the upcoming "211 Strategic and Initial Operational Planning" project. This project was approved by the Commission on July 7, 2003,

On April 17, 2001, the Commission released the competitive grant application 20133, which focused on developmental and physical health assessments and treatment, and community-based parent education. Grants were for one year with an option year opportunity. Commission staff will begin option year negotiations with 41 grantees the week of August 4, 2003.

Three planning and coordination studies were approved by the Commission on June 2, 2003: pre-literacy, health needs, and behavioral health. Requests for Information and Requests for Proposals have been released. Proposals are due to Commission staff on August 1 and August 4, 2003 with anticipated award dates in September 2003.

Literacy Project Updates

Ready to Read San Diego: A Guidebook of Literacy Readiness Programs for Children Five Years & Younger & Their Families has been printed in English and distribution of this literacy resource guide has begun. Some of the planned distribution points include childcare providers and childcare centers, libraries, foster parents, teen parents, elementary schools, pediatricians and parents. The Spanish version is being proofed and will be printed and distributed as soon as it is finalized. The English version will also be available on the Commission's website.

San Diego READS has completed curriculum development of the pre-literacy training for librarians and will begin training sessions in August. The curriculum includes a training manual and a coordinating DVD/video that showcases the best early literacy practices and programs at libraries throughout San Diego County. The DVD/video was engaging and the curriculum seems worthy of possible dissemination to other counties and organizations interested in pre-literacy.

Civic Engagement Planning

The Civic Engagement Leadership Team will be spending their August 6th meeting and possibly the September meeting defining civic engagement priorities and strategies for 2004 that will support the Commission's Strategic and Implementation Plans.

Project Q Kids- 10 News Segments on Prop 10 Programs

The Commission is funding Project Q Kids, a partnership of KPBS and 10News, to provide valuable information to parents and other caregivers on how they can support the optimal development of children in their care. As part of the project, Channel 10 Newscaster Lisa Lake has been interviewing programs funded by the First 5 Commission of San Diego and airing the segments during the weekday 11:00 a.m. newscasts. At each Commission meeting, staff will share 2-3 of the segments with Commissioners. Attached are brief descriptions of three segments – Q Kids, San Diego CARES, and the WOW Mobile.

TPAC Statement: None.

Staff Recommendation: Receive the State and Staff Reports.

Fiscal Impact: None